



Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Rebecca S. Skillman, Lt. Governor and Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development
Andy Miller, Agriculture Director

NEWS RELEASE

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BioTown, USA: Extreme Energy Makeover Day is Nov. 18

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Governor Mitch Daniels and Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced plans for Extreme Energy Makeover Day on Nov. 18 in BioTown, USA. On that day, 20 residents living in Reynolds, Ind., will receive a free E85 vehicle for the next two years in a partnership with General Motors. Extreme Energy Makeover Day will also feature an unveiling of Reynolds' new town vehicles, an alternative fuels workshop, a flex-fuel vehicle showcase and a biofuels open house.

"The success the citizens of Reynolds achieve with this pilot effort is important for all Hoosiers as we seek to decrease our dependence on foreign oil by utilizing alternative fuels," said Daniels.

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman will kick off Extreme Energy Makeover Day at 1 p.m. in the center of Reynolds with the delivery of the town's new flex-fuel vehicles and the free E85 vehicle giveaway. The town is purchasing three new vehicles through town funds already reserved for new vehicles and a grant from the Indiana Energy Group. Twenty new GM vehicles will also roll into town that day and 20 BioTown, USA residents who pre-register for a drawing will win the use of those vehicles for two years. Residents of Reynolds and Honeycreek Township – those living in the 47980 zip code – can look for local announcements and go to ISDA's website (www.in.gov/isda) for rules and pre-registration information. Demolition will also begin at the town's BP gas station to make way for the construction of a new "BioIsland" of pumps for E85 and B20 fuels.

From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., the White County Fairgrounds will host a GM Flex-Fuel Showcase and a Biofuels Open House to educate the public about the advantages of flex-fuel vehicles and renewable fuels. At 2:30 p.m., there will be an Alternative Fuels 101 Workshop presented by the Central Indiana Clean Cities Coalition, Indiana Soybean Board and Indiana Corn Marketing Council. At 5 p.m., there will be a Hog Roast and entertainment for the community at the White County Fairgrounds.

"The Energy Makeover we have planned is not only a physical makeover with cars and biofuels pumps. We are making over the mindset of Hoosiers," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "We want to create a culture in which biofuels and renewable energy are natural in Indiana."

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“Our key goals for Phase 1 of BioTown, USA are educating and encouraging ethanol and biodiesel use, installing E85 and B20 fuel pumps at the local gas station and replacing the three town-owned vehicles with flex-fuel vehicles,” said Indiana Agriculture Director Andy Miller. “Extreme Energy Makeover Day will signify the completion of 95 percent of our goals for Phase 1 in BioTown, USA, and we are anxious to move onto Phase 2 of the process.”

To qualify for the free two-year lease for a new GM E85 vehicle, residents should review all rules posted on the ISDA website (www.in.gov/isda). Residents must pre-register and must be a legal resident of U.S. Postal Service Zip Code 47980 over the age of 18.

Reynolds, Ind., is the country’s first effort toward creating communities where all energy needs are met through use of biorenewable resources, is nearing the completion of Phase 1 of the BioTown USA project. Phase 1 focused on biofuels and making the Reynolds community the highest per capita user of flex-fuel vehicles in the United States. A flex-fuel vehicle is one that can run on regular gasoline or E85 fuel. E85 is an 85 percent ethanol blended fuel, and B20 is a 20 percent soybean biodiesel blend with traditional petroleum diesel fuel. All diesel powered vehicles can operate on B20 without any modifications.

Phases 2 and 3 of the BioTown, USA project include potential plans to transform animal waste from area livestock farms into electricity and natural gas. Set in a rural area, there are more than 150,000 hogs within a 15 mile radius of Reynolds, as well as several sources of organic waste products, making it an ideal location for a digester, manure gasifier or some similar type of technology to turn manure and biomass into energy for the homes and businesses in Reynolds. A consultant has been hired by ISDA to analyze which system would be most appropriate for Reynolds in Phase 2 of the BioTown, USA project.

BioTown, USA is a project of ISDA. In mid-May ISDA rolled out its strategic plan, *Possibilities Unbound: The Plan for 2025*, Indiana Agriculture’s Strategic Plan. This document describes the Department’s focus and guiding principles for the next several years. The plan contains seven strategies to grow Indiana agriculture; one of the seven strategies is bioenergy. The action plan for this strategy calls for the development of a pilot community that meets all of its energy needs through biorenewable resources.

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